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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 03969

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, MOPS, AO, CG, BE
SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: VIEWS OF FLNC LEADER

REF: BRUSSELS 3547

SUMMARY: FLNC LEADER CONCEDES CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN OPPOSITION ELEMENTS IS VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT. HE VIEWS FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE AS "DANGEROUS, " GIVING SOVIET UNION AND CUBA PRETEXT TO INTERVENE. HE HOPES FOR SOME "NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION" TO END FIGHTING. HE CLAIMS THAT LAURENT KABILA AND PRP WILL SHORTLY OPEN SECOND FRONT WITH INSURGENCY ALONG LAKE TANGANYIKA. END SUMMARY.

1. FLNC LEADER RAPHAEL MUMBA (REFTEL, FORMER DEPUTY AND EX-MINISTER OF FINANCE UNDER TSHOMBE IN KATANGA, CALLED AT EMBASSY APRIL 18. MUMBA SAID HE VIEWED "OVERT, FLAGRANT" INTERVENTION OF FRANCE ("GENDARME DU MONDE") IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ZAIRE AS "DANGEROUS" SINCE IT GAVE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA PRETEXT TO INTERVENE IN SHABA. HE SAID THAT EX-KATANGA GENDARMES FIGHTING IN ZAIRE WERE NOT MARXIST, THE MAJORITY OF THEM HAVING BEEN EDUCATED BY U.S. MISSIONARIES IN WESTERN SHABA AND REMAIN BASICALLY PRO-U.S. HE REPEATED THAT FLNC INSURGENCY SOUGHT OVERTHROW OF
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"CORRUPT AND DICTATORIAL" MOBUTU REGIME RATHER THAN SEPARATION OF SHABA. HE STATED THAT HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO DEFENDED HUMAN RIGHTS, SHOULD NOT BE AVERSE TO MOBUTU'S DEPARTURE. HE SAID THAT HE AND OTHER "MODERATES" DEPLORE THE CURRENT FIGHTING BUT HAD NO CHOICE UNTIL MOBUTU GOES AND ELECTIONS ARE HELD. HE SAID THAT IF TIDE OF BATTLE TURNS AGAINST EX-GENDARMES IN SHABA, THEY WILL "GO INTO

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THE BUSH" AND FIGHT A GUERRILLA WAR.

2. MUMBA SAID HE FAVORED "NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION" TO PRESENT CONFLICT WITH THE ONLY PRECONDITION BEING THAT MOBUTU GO. HE SAID A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE SET UP AND FREE ELECTIONS BE ORGANIZED WITH U.S. AND WESTERN SUPPORT. HE SAID SOME "MMODERATE" OPPOSITION LEADERS WOULD FAVOR NEGOTIATIONS, AMONG THEM SOME FLNC LEADERS INCLUDING JEAN BAPTISTE KIBWE, GIZENGA AND MARC LEADER KANYONGA. MOST FLNC LEADERS ARE OPPOSED TO A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION HE SAID.

3. WE ASKED MUMBA WHETHER HIS VIEWS WERE HIS OWN OR REPRESENTED OFFICIAL FLNC POSITION. HE REPLIED THAT THEY WERE HIS OWN BUT SAID THEY WERE AS VALID AS THE VIEWS OF ANY OTHER FLNC LEADER EXCEPT GENERAL MBUMBA HIMSELF. MUMBA SAID HE COMMUNICATES DIRECTLY WITH GENERAL MBUMBA FROM TIME TO TIME AND MAINTAINS A CORRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH FLNC PARIS LEADER MUTOMBO JACQUES CARTIER. HE SAID HE HAS NO DEALINGS WHATSOEVER WITH FLNC BRUSSELS REP ANDRE KALOBA BECAUSE OF PERSONAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES.

4. BESIDES LACK OF UNITY IN FLNC, MUMBA SAID THAT REPORTED COORDINATION OF ALL ZAIRE OPPOSITION GROUPS WAS NONEXISTENT, WITH SELF-INTEREST AND OLD RIVALRIES STRONGER THEN DRIVE FOR GREATER UNITY. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "SERIOUS" OPPOSITION LEADERS (CITING AS EXAMPLES FSA LEADER KAMITATU IN PARIS AND A THOMAS KANZA PRESENTLY TEACHING IN BOSTON) WOULD SOON START SOME SYSTEM OF COOPERATION.
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5. MUMBA SAID THAT PRA'S LAURENT KABILA, NOT GIZENGA, WAS THE REAL LEADER OF OPPOSITION GROUPS IN EASTERN ZAIRE. HE CHARACTERIZED KABILA AS A MODERATE. HE SAID HE WOULD BEGIN FIGHTING SHORTLY IN THE AREA ALONG LAKE TANGANYIKA.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY (REFTEL)THAT MUMBA APPEARS TO HAVE HAD A FALLING OUT WITH FLNC LEADERS.
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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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